

**CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE
ASHEPOO 115kV TRANSMISSION PROJECT,
COLLETON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**



CHICORA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 487

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Prepared By:
Michael Trinkley, Ph.D., RPA
and
Nicole Southerland

Prepared For:
Mr. Tommy L. Jackson
Central Electric Power Cooperative
P.O. Box 1455
Columbia, SC 29202

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Chicora Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 8664
Columbia, SC 29202-8664
803/787-6910
www.chicora.org

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ABSTRACT

This study reports on an intensive cultural resources survey of an approximately 7.5 mile corridor and substation in Colleton County, South Carolina. The work was conducted to assist Central Electric Power Cooperative in complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the regulations codified in 36CFR800.

The corridor is to be used by Central Electric Power Cooperative for the construction of a transmission line, which will connect an existing line to a new substation. The topography is low and flat with poorly drained soils on much of the corridor.

The proposed route will require the clearing of the corridor, followed by construction of the proposed transmission line and substation. These activities have the potential to affect archaeological and historical sites that may be in the project corridor. For this study an area of potential effect (APE) 0.5 mile around the proposed transmission project was assumed.

An investigation of the archaeological site files at the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology identified seven previously recorded sites (38CN26, 38CN46, 38CN82, 38CN131, 38CN143, 38CN1071, and 38CN1072) in the project APE. Site 38CN26 is a historic scatter; 38CN46 is a mixed component prehistoric and historic scatter; 38CN82 is a prehistoric and late nineteenth century scatter; 38CN131 is a nineteenth century scatter; 38CN143 is an eighteenth to nineteenth century scatter; 38CN1071 is the Ashepoo Town Hall and Post office; and 38CN1072 is the Ashepoo Depot.

Sites 38CN82, 38CN131, 38CN143, and 38CN1071 have been found not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. No eligibility

was listed for 38CN26, 38CN46, and 38CN1072. It should also be noted that the site files showed an additional site, 38CN132, however the file was missing. It was explained that the missing file may represent that the site location was problematic (Keith Derting, personal communication 2008).

The S.C. Department of Archives and History GIS was consulted for any previously recorded sites. Two sites (206-0551 and 356-0339) were identified. Site 206-0551 is the c. 1910 Ashepoo Train Trestle, which is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Site 356-0339 is a c. 1935 house that is not eligible for the National Register.

The archaeological survey of the corridor incorporated shovel testing at 100-foot intervals along the center line of the 75-foot right-of-way, which was marked by stakes. All shovel test fill was screened through ¼-inch mesh with a total of 315 shovel tests excavated along the corridor.

As a result of these investigations no sites were identified. This is likely the result of poorly drained soils and lack of a level, dry area suitable for habitation.

A survey of public roads within a 0.5 mile of the proposed undertaking was conducted in an effort to identify any architectural sites over 50 years old that also retained their integrity. No such sites were found. The previously identified structures were revisited and rephotographed. The only eligible resource, the Ashepoo Train Trestle (206-0551), cannot be seen from the proposed transmission route and will not be impacted by the undertaking. The remaining structures are still recommended not eligible for the National Register.

Finally, it is possible that archaeological remains may be encountered in the project area during clearing activities. Crews should be advised to report any discoveries of concentrations of artifacts (such as bottles, ceramics, or projectile points) or brick rubble to the project engineer, who should in turn report the material to the State Historic Preservation Office or to Chicora Foundation (the process of dealing with late discoveries is discussed in 36CFR800.13(b)(3)). No construction should take place in the vicinity of these late discoveries until they have been examined by an archaeologist and, if necessary, have been processed according to 36CFR800.13(b)(3).

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INTRODUCTION

This investigation was conducted by Dr. Michael Trinkley of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for Mr. Tommy L. Jackson of Central Electric Power Cooperative. The work was conducted to assist Central Electric Power Cooperative comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the regulations codified in 36CFR800.

The project consists of a 7.5 mile corridor and lot to be used for a 115kV transmission line and substation in eastern Colleton County (Figure 1). The project runs approximately north-south between an existing transmission line and substation at SC 64 and a proposed substation on US 17 to the south.

The proposed corridor, as previously mentioned, is intended to be used as a transmission line. Landscape alteration, primarily clearing, and construction, including erection of poles, will damage the ground surface and any archaeological resources that may be present in the survey area.

Construction and maintenance of the transmission line and substation may also have an impact on historic resources in the project area. The project will not directly affect any historic structures (since none are located on the survey corridor), but the completed facility may detract from the visual integrity of historic properties, creating what many consider discordant surroundings. As a result, this architectural survey uses an area of potential effect (APE) about 0.5 mile radius around the proposed survey corridor.

This study, however, does not consider any future secondary impact of the project, including increased or expanded development of this portion of Colleton County.

We were requested by Mr. Tommy L. Jackson of Central Electric Power Cooperative to conduct a cultural resources survey for the project on November 21, 2007.

These investigations incorporated a review of the site files at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. As a result of that work, seven archaeological sites (38CN26, 38CN46, 38CN82, 38CN131, 38CN143, 38CN1071, and 38CN1072) were found within a 0.5 mile area of potential effect (APE). Site 38CN26 is a historic scatter; 38CN46 is a mixed component prehistoric and historic scatter; 38CN82 is a prehistoric and late nineteenth century scatter; 38CN131 is a nineteenth century scatter; 38CN143 is an eighteenth to nineteenth century scatter; 38CN1071 is the Ashpoo Town Hall and Post office; and 38CN1072 is the Ashpoo Depot.

Sites 38CN82, 38CN131, 38CN143, and 38CN1071 have been found not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. No eligibility was listed for 38CN26, 38CN46, and 38CN1072. It should also be noted that the site files showed an additional site, 38CN132, however the file was missing. It was explained that the missing file may represent that the site location was problematic (Keith Derting, personal communication 2008).

The South Carolina Department of Archives and History GIS was consulted to check for any NRHP buildings, districts, structures, sites, or objects in the study area. One property (206-0551) in the project APE has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. This is the c. 1910 Ashpoo Train Trestle, recorded through a historical and architectural inventory for the county (Jaeger Company 1995).

CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE ASHEPOO 115kV TRANSMISSION PROJECT

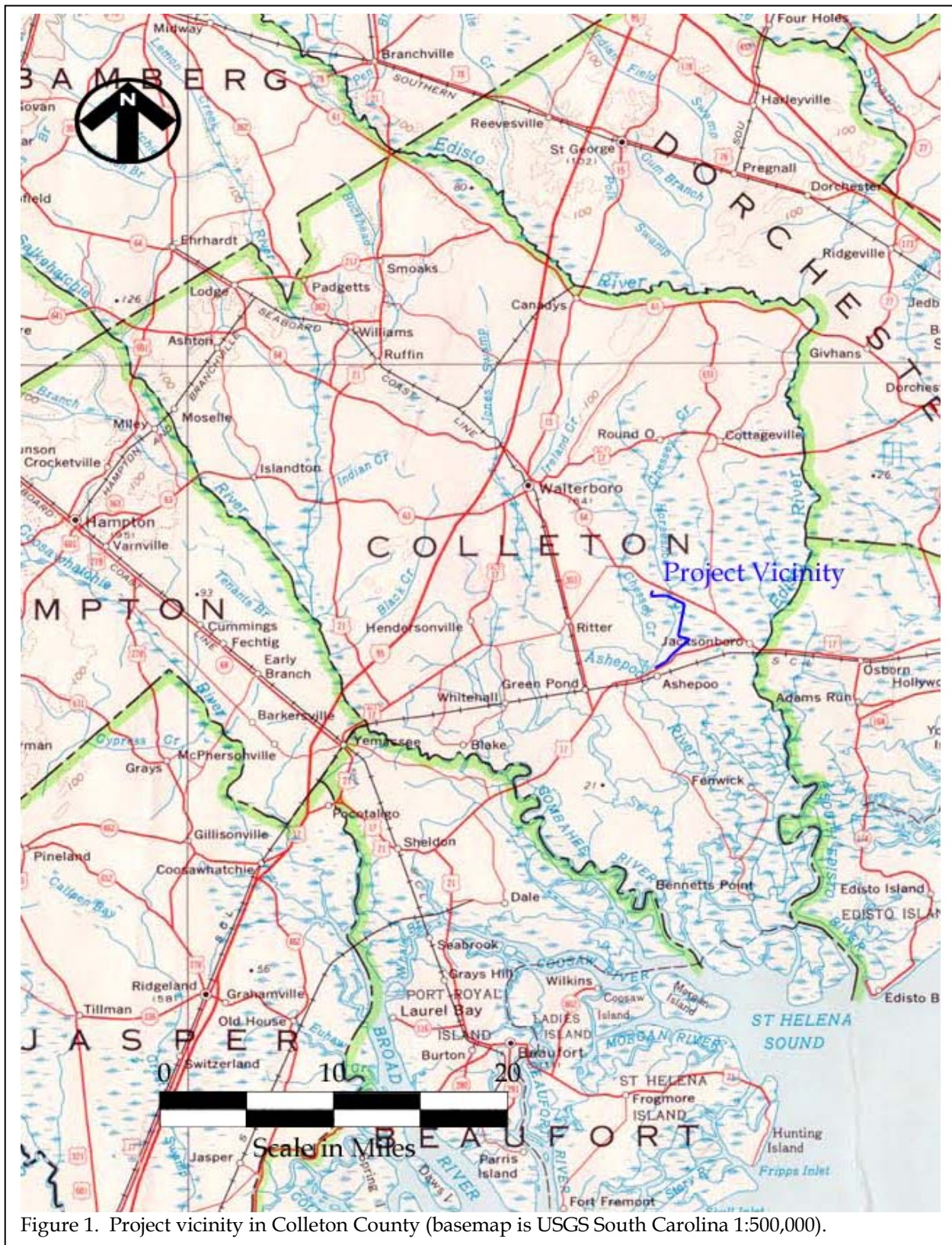


Figure 1. Project vicinity in Colleton County (basemap is USGS South Carolina 1:500,000).

INTRODUCTION

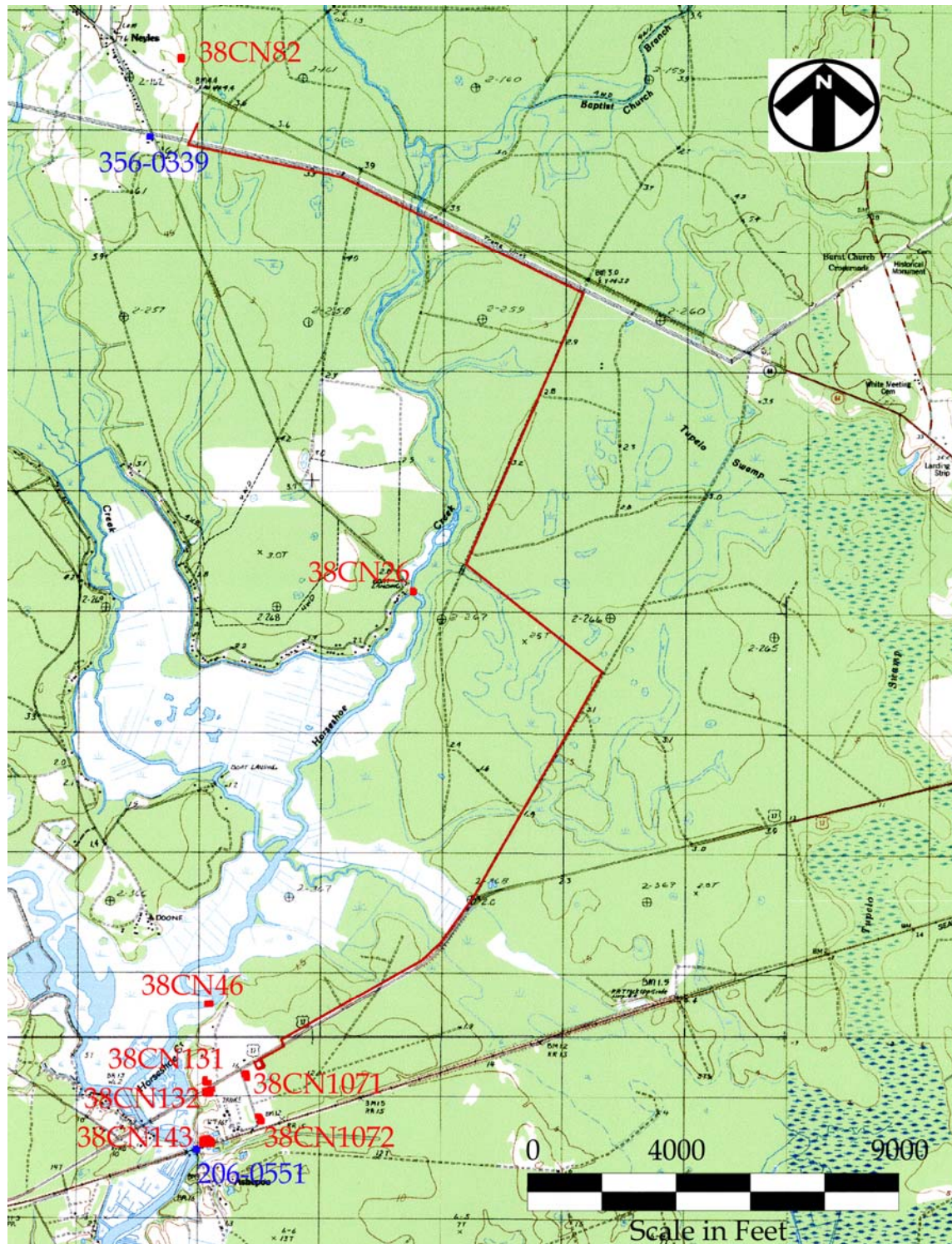


Figure 2. Project corridor and previously identified archaeological (in red) and architectural (in blue) sites (basemap is USGS Neyles and Green Pond 7.5').

The other structure (356-0339), recorded by the same survey, is a c. 1935 house that has been determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Archival and historical research was limited to a review of secondary sources available in the Chicora Foundation files.

The archaeological survey was conducted from January 28-30, 2008 by Ms. Debi Hacker and Ms. Nicole Southerland under the direction of Dr. Michael Trinkley.

The architectural survey of the APE, designed to identify any structures over 50 years in age that retain their integrity and were potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, revealed no such structures beyond the one identified during the 1992-1995 survey (Jaeger Company 1995).

Report production was conducted at Chicora's laboratories in Columbia, South Carolina from January 31-February 1, 2008. The only photographic materials associated with this project are digital images, which are not archival and will be retained for only 90 days.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Physiographic Setting

Colleton County is situated in the lower Atlantic Coastal Plain of South Carolina. Containing about 1,048 square miles (excluding annexed Edisto Beach), it is bordered by Charleston, Dorchester, Orangeburg, Bamberg, Allendale, and Hampton counties to the north, east, and west. It is bounded on the south and east by approximately 4 miles of irregular Atlantic Ocean shoreline, as well as a number of barrier and marsh islands.

The topography of the county is characterized by subtle undulation characteristic of beach ridge plains. The elevations range from sea level to approximately 125 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The survey corridor is mostly level, ranging from 5 to 15 feet AMSL.

Colleton is drained by three significant river systems: the Edisto (historically the upper reaches have been known as Pon Pon River), the Ashepoo, and the Combahee-Salkahatchie. All three rivers have significant freshwater discharge although the Ashepoo is dominated by salt water as far upriver as Lavington Plantation (about 19 miles inland) is and the point of maximum brackish water penetration is in the vicinity of the Ashepoo community. The Combahee River forms the southwestern boundary of the county while the Edisto forms part of the northern boundary. The Ashepoo River bisects Colleton County, flowing just west of the City of Walterboro.

Geology and Soils

As previously mentioned, Colleton County is made up of one broad physiographic area, often called the lower Atlantic Coastal Plain or the Atlantic Coast Flatwoods. The surface soils are almost entirely sedimentary and were transported into the area from elsewhere. The geology of Colleton County is characteristic of the region; the formations covering the surface date from the Pleistocene and include sands, clays, gravels, and phosphates.

Much of the county is covered with broad areas of nearly level to gently sloping loamy to clayey soils. On the flood plains, these soils are usually subjected to at least occasional, and often



Figure 3. View of low, wet areas along the corridor.

frequent, flooding. Many exhibit wet season high water tables — often within a foot of the surface. Major soil series include Bladen, Argent, Wahee, Santee, and Cape Fear. Just southeast of Walterboro the soils become a little lighter, and are characterized by loamy profiles. Typical soil series include Goldsboro, Lynchburg, Rains, and Coosaw. Although many of these soils have water tables 2 or more feet below the surface, the Rains and Coosaw soils are still likely to be wet during much of the year. At Walterboro there is a band of primarily sandy soils crossing the county from southwest to northeast. Included are such series as Blanton, Chipley, and Lakeland — all exhibiting good to excessive drainage (Stuck 1982).

Six soil series are found in the project area. Five of the soils range from somewhat poorly drained to very poorly drained, while only one soil series is moderately well drained.

The moderately well drained soil, Yauhannah, is found only at the northernmost portion of the project corridor. This soil has an Ap horizon of dark grayish brown (10YR4/2) fine sandy loam to a depth of 0.5 foot over a very pale brown (10YR7/3) fine sandy loam to a depth of 1.1 feet.

The remainder of the corridor is comprised of more poorly drained soils. One somewhat poorly drained soil, Wahee, is found in the project area. This soil has an Ap horizon of dark gray (10YR4/1) fine sandy loam to a depth of 0.5 foot over a light yellowish brown (2.5Y6/4) fine sandy loam to 1.0 foot in depth. The poorly drained soils consist of the Argent and Bladen series. Argent soils have an A horizon of very dark gray (10YR3/1) loam to 0.4 foot in depth over a grayish brown (10YR5/2)

clay to 2.8 feet in depth. Bladen soils have an A horizon of black (10YR2/1) fine sandy loam to 0.6 foot in depth over a light grayish brown (2.5Y6/2) fine sandy loam to a depth of 1.1 feet.

The very poorly drained soils are Levy and Santee. The Levy Series has a surface layer of dark gray (10YR4/1) fibric organic matter to a depth of 0.4 foot over a dark gray (10YR4/1) mucky silty clay to 0.6 foot in depth. Santee soils have an A horizon of very dark gray (10YR3/1) loam to 0.8 foot in depth over a very dark gray (10YR3/1) clay loam to a depth of 1.3 feet.

Climate

Colleton County has a subtropical climate, characterized by warm summers, mild winters, and adequate precipitation fairly evenly spread throughout the year. Except in the summer, when maritime tropical air controls the climate of the area, the daily weather patterns are controlled by west to east moving pressure systems and associated fronts.

Yearly precipitation averages 52 inches, but ranges from 41 to 62 inches. The growing season, from April to September, receives an average of 32 inches or about 60% of the yearly

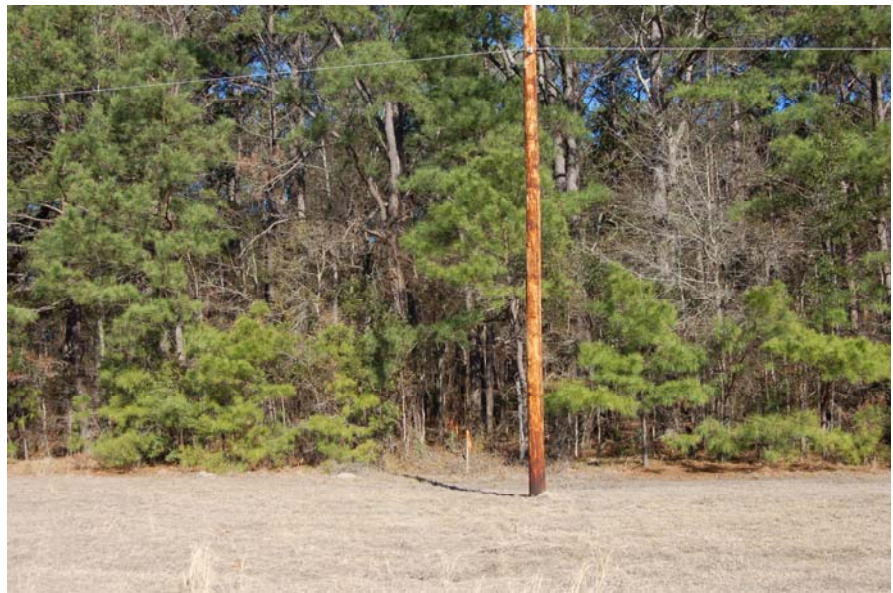


Figure 4. View of typical pine and hardwood forest along the corridor.

total. The average length of the frost-free growing season is approximately 200 days, although frosts can occur as early as October 19 and as late as April 20 (Stuck 1982:2, Table 2).

Mills remarked in 1826 that Carolina was similar to European climates, lying at a similar latitude. He noted that:

in comparing the climate of South Carolina, with similar climates in Europe, we find it lying under the same atmospheric influences with Aix, Rochelle, Montpellier, Lyons, Bordeaux, and other parts of France; with Milan, Turin, Padua, Mantua, and other parts of Italy (Mills 1972 [1826]:133).

The coastal region is a moderately high risk zone for tropical storms, with 169 hurricanes being documented from 1686 to 1972 (0.59 per year) (Mathews et al. 1980:56). One of the most devastating in the eighteenth century was the hurricane of September 15, 1752. One report listed 92 people drowned, although the death toll, especially among the African American slaves, was likely much higher. The storm also had considerable long-term effects and Calhoun notes that:

the destruction of trees was severe; one plantation owner's loss was assessed at \$50,000 and many of those trees which survived were "heart-shaken," and unfit for use. Crops were even more damaged as the storm followed a severe drought. It was necessary to enact laws to regulate the exportation and sale of corn, "Peafe," and small rice, so that "the poor may be able to purchase Provisions at a moderate Price" (Calhoun 1983:9).

Floristics

Speaking of the coastal plain Braun observed that:

the vegetation of this region is in part warm temperate-subtropical, in part distinctively coastal plain, and in part temperate deciduous. It is made up of widely different forest communities - coniferous, mixed coniferous and hardwood, deciduous hardwood, and mixed deciduous and broad-leaved evergreen hardwood - interrupted here and there by swamps, bogs, and prairies. The large number of unlike communities is related to the diverse environmental conditions of the region (Braun 1950:282).

Indeed, an examination of the region reveals tremendous diversity. Being within the Atlantic Coast Flatwoods, the predominant extant vegetation is pine, often a mixture of pond pine, longleaf pine, and slash pine, with oak, sweet bay magnolia, red bay, and sassafras in the understory, especially in depressional or poorly drained areas. In the lowest areas, flooded for most of the year, the vegetation consists of cypress-tupelo swamps. On the fringe areas, where flooding is more seasonal, a range of somewhat drier species are found, including red maple and water elm, as well as cottonwood and sycamore. Understory in these areas consists of red bay, sweet-bay magnolia, and American elm (see Barry 1980).

The current transmission corridor runs through a variety of different vegetations. Planted pines are common as are mixed pine and hardwood forests. Wetland areas exhibit hardwood stands and small bays are located throughout the area.

PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Previous Investigations

Colleton County has received relatively little archaeological attention. In fact, when Derting and his colleagues prepared the bibliography of archaeological literature in the early 1990s, there were only 24 listings for Colleton (Derting et al. 1991:196-201). Of these 19, or nearly 80%, were associated with some sort of compliance study and 17 of the 19 were associated with highway construction activities. Wedged between far more prosperous counties to the northeast and southwest, Colleton had received relatively little investigation. That is still largely the case today.

The most recent large-scale investigation in Colleton is the 1995 architectural and historical survey of the county by The Jaeger Company (1995). This study, conducted over three years, identified 1288 sites for the county. Only two of these sites (206-0551 and 356-0339) were found within the 0.5 mile APE of the current project corridor.

Several smaller projects have also been conducted in the vicinity, all of which are compliance surveys (see Poplin 1989; Poplin 1993; and Trinkley 2000).

The Prehistoric

The Paleoindian period, lasting from 12,000 to 8,000 B.C., is evidenced by basally thinned, side-notched projectile points; fluted, lanceolate projectile points; side scrapers; end scrapers; and drills (Coe 1964; Michie 1977; Williams 1968). The Paleoindian occupation, while widespread, does not appear to have been intensive. Artifacts are most frequently found along major river drainages, which Michie interprets to support the concept of an economy

"oriented towards the exploitation of now extinct mega-fauna" (Michie 1977:124).

Unfortunately, little is known about Paleoindian subsistence strategies, settlement systems, or social organization. Generally, archaeologists agree that the Paleoindian groups were at a band level of society (see Service 1966), were nomadic, and were both hunters and foragers. While population density, based on the isolated finds, is thought to have been low, Walthall suggests that toward the end of the period, "there was an increase in population density and in territoriality and that a number of new resource areas were beginning to be exploited" (Walthall 1980:30).

The Archaic period, which dates from 8000 to 2000 B.C., does not form a sharp break with the Paleoindian period, but is a slow transition characterized by a modern climate and an increase in the diversity of material culture. Associated with this is a reliance on a broad spectrum of small mammals, although the white tailed deer was likely the most commonly exploited mammal. The chronology established by Coe (1964) for the North Carolina Piedmont may be applied with little modification to the South Carolina coastal plain and piedmont. Archaic period assemblages, exemplified by corner-notched and broad-stem projectile points, are fairly common, perhaps because the swamps and drainages offered especially attractive ecotones.

In the Coastal Plain of the South Carolina there is an increase in the quantity of Early Archaic remains, probably associated with an increase in population and associated increase in the intensity of occupation. While Hardaway and Dalton points are typically found as isolated specimens along riverine environments, remains

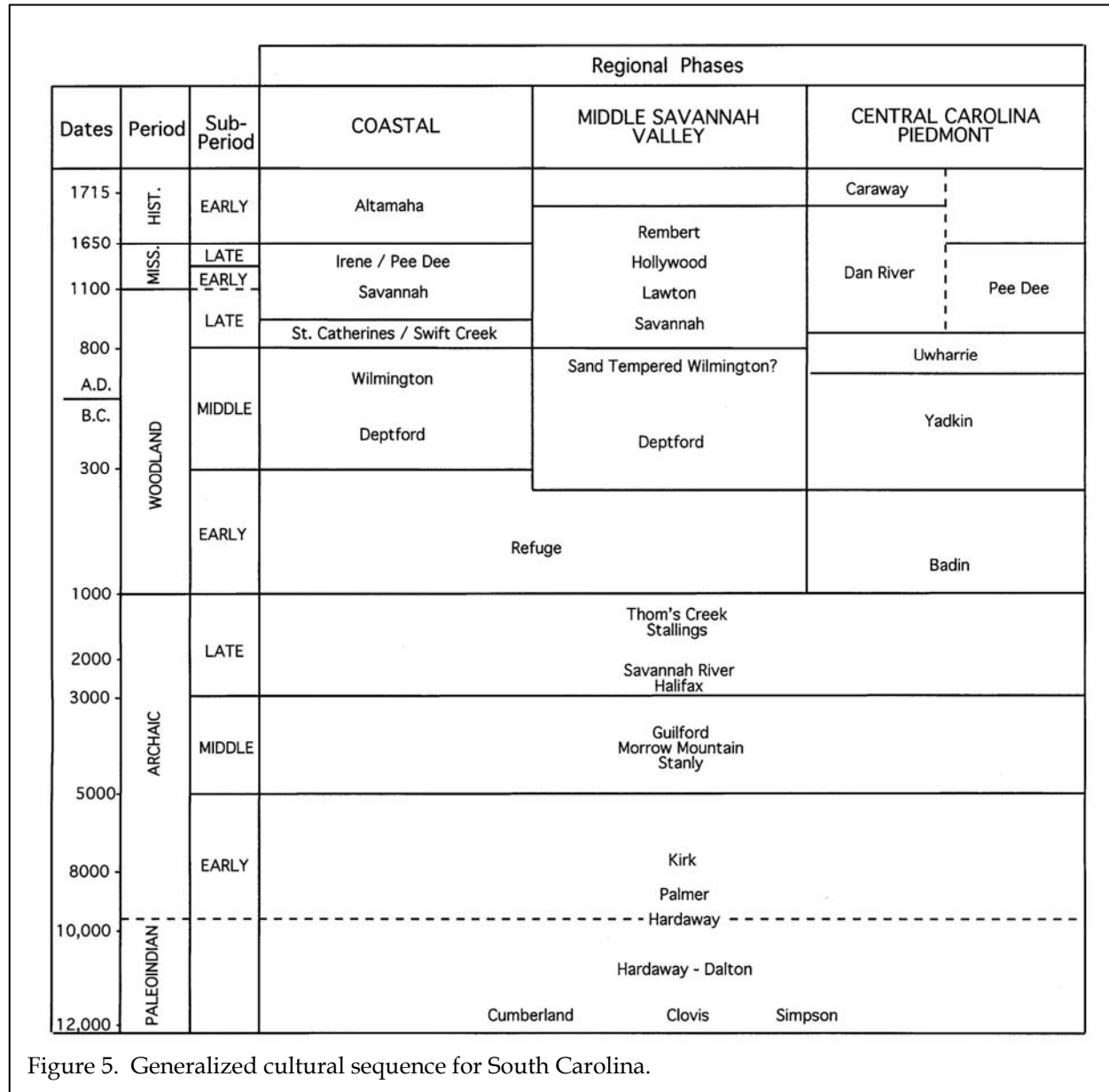


Figure 5. Generalized cultural sequence for South Carolina.

from the following Palmer phase are not only more common, but are also found in both riverine and interriversine settings. Kirks are likewise common in the coastal plain (Goodyear et al. 1979).

The two primary Middle Archaic phases found in the coastal plain are the Morrow Mountain and Guilford (the Stanly and Halifax complexes identified by Coe are rarely

encountered). Our best information on the Middle Woodland comes from sites investigated west of the Appalachian Mountains, such as the work in the Little Tennessee River Valley. The work at Middle Archaic river valley sites, with their evidence of a diverse floral and faunal subsistence base, seems to stand in stark contrast to Caldwell's Middle Archaic "Old Quartz Industry" of Georgia and South Carolina, where axes, choppers, and ground and polished stone tools are very rare.

The Late Archaic is characterized by the appearance of large, square stemmed Savannah River projectile points (Coe 1964). These people continued the intensive exploitation of the uplands much like earlier Archaic groups. The bulk of our data for this period, however, comes from work in the Uwharrie region of North Carolina.

The Woodland period begins by definition with the introduction of fired clay pottery about 2000 B.C. along the South Carolina coast (the introduction of pottery, and hence the beginning of the Woodland period, occurs much later in the Piedmont of South Carolina). It should be noted that many researchers call the period from about 2500 to 1000 B.C. the Late Archaic because of a perceived continuation of the Archaic lifestyle in spite of the manufacture of pottery. Regardless of terminology, the period from 2500 to 1000 B.C. is well documented on the South Carolina coast and is characterized by Stallings (fiber-tempered) pottery (see Figure 5 for a synopsis of Woodland phases and pottery designations). The subsistence economy during this early period was based primarily on deer hunting and fishing, with supplemental inclusions of small mammals, birds, reptiles, and shellfish.

Like the Stallings settlement pattern, Thom's Creek sites are found in a variety of environmental zones and take on several forms. Thom's Creek sites are found throughout the South Carolina Coastal Zone, Coastal Plain, and up to the Fall Line. The sites are found into the North Carolina Coastal Plain, but do not appear to extend southward into Georgia.

In the Coastal Plain drainage of the Savannah River there is a change of settlement, and probably subsistence, away from the riverine focus found in the Stallings Phase (Hanson 1982:13; Stoltman 1974:235-236). Thom's Creek sites are more commonly found in the upland areas and lack evidence of intensive shellfish collection. In the Coastal Zone large, irregular shell middens, small, sparse shell middens; and large "shell rings" are found in the Thom's Creek

settlement system.

The Deptford phase, which dates from 1100 B.C. to A.D. 600, is best characterized by fine to coarse sandy paste pottery with a check stamped surface treatment. The Deptford settlement pattern involves both coastal and inland sites.

Inland, sites such as 38AK228-W, 38LX5, 38RD60, and 38BM40 indicate the presence of an extensive Deptford occupation on the Fall Line and the Coastal Plain, although sandy, acidic soils preclude statements on the subsistence base (Anderson 1979; Ryan 1972; Trinkley 1980b). These interior or upland Deptford sites, however, are strongly associated with the swamp terrace edge, and this environment is productive not only in nut masts, but also in large mammals such as deer. Perhaps the best data concerning Deptford "base camps" comes from the Lewis-West site (38AK228-W), where evidence of abundant food remains, storage pit features, elaborate material culture, mortuary behavior, and craft specialization has been reported (Sassaman et al. 1990:96-98).

Throughout much of the Coastal Zone and Coastal Plain north of Charleston, a somewhat different cultural manifestation is observed, related to the "Northern Tradition" (e.g., Caldwell 1958). This recently identified assemblage has been termed Deep Creek and was first identified from northern North Carolina sites (Phelps 1983). The Deep Creek assemblage is characterized by pottery with medium to coarse sand inclusions and surface treatments of cord marking, fabric impressing, simple stamping, and net impressing. Much of this material has been previously designated as the Middle Woodland "Cape Fear" pottery originally typed by South (1976). The Deep Creek wares date from about 1000 B.C. to A.D. 1 in North Carolina, but may date later in South Carolina. The Deep Creek settlement and subsistence systems are poorly known, but appear to be very similar to those identified with the Deptford phase.

The Deep Creek assemblage strongly resembles Deptford both typologically and temporally. It appears this northern tradition of cord and fabric impressions was introduced and gradually accepted by indigenous South Carolina populations. During this time some groups continued making only the older carved paddle-stamped pottery, while others mixed the two styles, and still others (and later all) made exclusively cord and fabric stamped wares.

The Middle Woodland in South Carolina is characterized by a pattern of settlement mobility and short-term occupation. On the southern coast it is associated with the Wilmington phase, while on the northern coast it is recognized by the presence of Hanover, McClellanville or Santee, and Mount Pleasant assemblages. The best data concerning Middle Woodland Coastal Zone assemblages comes from Phelps' (1983:32-33) work in North Carolina. Associated items include a small variety of the Roanoke Large Triangular points (Coe 1964:110-111), sandstone abraders, shell pendants, polished stone gorgets, celts, and woven marsh mats. Significantly, both primary inhumations and cremations are found.

On the Coastal Plain of South Carolina, researchers are finding evidence of a Middle Woodland Yadkin assemblage, best known from Coe's work at the Doerschuk site in North Carolina (Coe 1964:25-26). Yadkin pottery is characterized by a crushed quartz temper and cord marked, fabric impressed, and linear check stamped surface treatments. The Yadkin ceramics are associated with medium-sized triangular points, although Oliver (1981) suggests that a continuation of the Piedmont Stemmed Tradition to at least A.D. 300 coexisted with this Triangular Tradition. The Yadkin series in South Carolina was first observed by Ward (1978, 1983) from the White's Creek drainage in Marlboro County, South Carolina. Since then, a large Yadkin village has been identified by DePratter at the Dunlap site (38DA66) in Darlington County, South Carolina (Chester DePratter, personal communication 1985) and Blanton et al. (1986) have excavated a small Yadkin site (38SU83) in Sumter County, South

Carolina. Research at 38FL249 on the Roche Carolina tract in northern Florence County revealed an assemblage including Badin, Yadkin, and Wilmington wares (Trinkley et al. 1993:85-102). Anderson et al. (1982:299-302) offer additional typological assessments of the Yadkin wares in South Carolina.

Over the years the suggestion that Cape Fear might be replaced by such types as Deep Creek and Mount Pleasant has raised considerable controversy. Taylor, for example, rejects the use of the North Carolina types in favor of those developed by Anderson et al. (1982) from their work at Mattassee Lake in Berkeley County (Taylor 1984:80). Cable (1991) is even less generous in his denouncement of ceramic constructs developed nearly a decade ago, also favoring adoption of the Mattassee Lake typology and chronology. This construct, recognizing five phases (Deptford I - III, McClellanville, and Santee I), uses a type variety system.

Regardless of terminology, these Middle Woodland Coastal Plain and Coastal Zone phases continue the Early Woodland Deptford pattern of mobility. While sites are found all along the coast and inland to the Fall Line, shell midden sites evidence sparse shell and artifacts. Gone are the abundant shell tools, worked bone items, and clay balls. Recent investigations at Coastal Zone sites such as 38BU747 and 38BU1214, however, have provided some evidence of worked bone and shell items at Deptford phase middens (see Trinkley 1990).

In many respects the South Carolina Late Woodland may be characterized as a continuation of previous Middle Woodland cultural assemblages. While outside the Carolinas there were major cultural changes, such as the continued development and elaboration of agriculture, the Carolina groups settled into a lifeway not appreciably different from that observed for the previous 500 to 700 years (cf. Sassaman et al. 1990:14-15). This situation would remain unchanged until the development of the South Appalachian Mississippian complex (see

Ferguson 1971).

The South Appalachian Mississippian Period (ca. A.D. 1100 to 1640) is the most elaborate level of culture attained by the native inhabitants and is followed by cultural disintegration brought about largely by European disease. The period is characterized by complicated stamped pottery, complex social organization, agriculture, and the construction of temple mounds and ceremonial centers. The earliest phases include the Savannah and Pee Dee (A.D. 1200 to 1550).

Historic Overview

The English established the first permanent settlement in what is today South Carolina in 1670 on the west bank of the Ashley River. Like other European powers, the English were lured to the "new World" for reasons other than the acquisitions of land and promotion of agriculture. The Lords Proprietors, who owned the colony until 1719-1720, intended to discover a staple crop whose marketing would provide great wealth through the mercantile system.

By 1680 the settlers of Albermarle Point had moved their village across the bay to the tip of the peninsula formed by the Ashley and Cooper rivers -- the area of modern-day Charleston.

The early settlers of the Carolina colony came from other mainland colonies, England, and the European continent. But the future of Carolina was largely directed by the large number of colonists from the English West Indies. This Caribbean connection has been discussed by Waterhouse (1975), who argues that the Caribbean immigrants were largely from old families of economic and political prominence, which formed the Barbados elite. Waterhouse observes that while elsewhere in the American colonies the early settled families were displaced from their established positions of power and economic superiority by newcomers, this did not occur in South Carolina. In Carolina:

a relatively large proportion of

those who, in the middle of the eighteenth century, were among the wealthier inhabitants, were descended from those families who had arrived in the colony during the first twenty years of its settlement (Waterhouse 1975:280).

This immigration turned out to be a significant factor in the stability and longevity of South Carolina's colonial elite. It also firmly established the foundations of slavery and cash crop plantations.

In 1682 the first three Carolina counties -- Berkeley, Colleton, and Craven -- were created. This original Colleton County was far larger than the area known as Colleton today and included roughly the area between the Stono and Combahee rivers. This incorporated modern-day Dorchester County, as well as Edisto and Johns islands.

There seems to be little reliable information concerning the early settlement of Colleton, although there is general agreement that one settlement grew up around Jacksonboro on the Edisto River (known at the time as Pon Pon River). Another significant settlement was Willtown, situated about 8 miles south of Jacksonboro (and today outside of Colleton County). Round O was an area initially used for cattle raising, although by 1700 it seems that rice was being planted (The Jaeger Company 1995:10).

Cattle raising was an easy way to exploit the region's land and resources, offering a relatively secure return for very little capital investment. Few slaves were necessary to manage the herd. The mild climate of the low country made winter forage more abundant and winter shelters unnecessary. The salt marshes on the coast, useless for other purposes, provided excellent grazing and eliminated the need to provide salt licks. More interior swamps found similar vegetation and provided a constant water supply (Coon 1972; Dunbar 1961). Production of

cattle, hogs, and sheep quickly outstripped local consumption and by the early eighteenth century, beef and pork were principal exports of the Colony to the West Indies (Ver Steeg 1975:114-116). This allowed the ties between Carolina and the Caribbean to remain strong, and provided essential provisions to the large scale, single crop plantations.

Rice and indigo both competed for the attention of Carolina planters. Although introduced at least by the 1690s, rice did not become a significant staple crop until the early eighteenth century. At that time it not only provided the Proprietors with the economic base the mercantile system required, but it was also to form the basis of South Carolina's plantation system -- slavery.

The Church Act of 1706 established two Anglican parishes in Colleton County -- St. Bartholomew's and St. Paul's, with the former roughly encompassing what is today Colleton County.

Regardless of the progress of early settlement, by 1715 the Yemassee Indian initiated what was to develop into a major war that would leave the region largely uninhabited. Wallace, for example, suggests that the very low level of slave ownership in the area during the first quarter of the eighteenth century was the result of this war (Wallace 1934:I:309-310). The Jaeger Company (1995:10) notes that there were only about 379 residents in 1720, only 144 (about 38%) of whom were African American slaves.

As rice became a more important commodity during the early eighteenth century, however, the complexion of Colleton County gradually changed. South Carolina's economic development during the pre-Revolutionary War period involved a complex web of interactions between slaves, planters, and merchants. By the close of the eighteenth century, some South Carolina plantations had a ratio of slaves to whites that was 27:1 (Morgan 1977). And by the end of the century over half of eastern South Carolina's

white population held slaves. With slavery came, to many, unbelievable wealth. Coclanis notes that:

on the eve of the American Revolution, the white population of the low country was by far the richest single group in British North America. With the area's wealth based largely on the expropriation by whites of the golden rice and blue dye produced by black slaves, the Carolina low country had by 1774 reached a level of aggregate wealth greater than that in many parts of the world even today. The evolution of Charleston, the center of the low-country civilization, reflected not only the growing wealth of the area but also its spirit and soul (Coclanis 1989:7).

Only certain areas of the low country, however, were suitable for rice production. During the early years rice was grown as an upland crop, in small fields adjacent to freshwater streams where water could be easily impounded and applied to the crop (Linder 1995:v, vii). By the early 1700s planters found that upland swamps, such as those in the Round O area, were even better suited for rice, although the soils were quickly exhausted (Meriwether 1940; Sellers 1934). These upland swamps, distinct from well-drained uplands, remained the focus of Carolina rice agriculture during the entire Colonial period (see Trinkley et al. 2003).

Hewatt, writing in 1779, describes the process of upland swamp rice cultivation:

after the planter has obtained his tract of land, and built a house upon it, he then begins to clear his field of that load of wood with which the land is covered. Having cleared his field, he next surrounds it with a wooded

fence, to exclude all hogs, sheep, and cattle from it. This field he plants with rice . . . year after year, until the lands are exhausted, or yield not a crop sufficient to answer his expectations. Then it is forsaken, and a fresh spot of land is cleared and planted, with is also treated in like manner, and in succession forsaken and neglected (Hewatt 1836:514).

This rather simplistic commentary failed to observe the engineering feat that upland swamp rice cultivation really was. Clearing, which alone was a monumental undertaking, was followed by the construction of dams, dikes, and trenches. By one estimate, a 500 acre rice field required 60 miles of dikes and ditches (Gunn 1976:1-16). Fields were carefully leveled to ensure that they could be completely covered by water. Rice was planted during two periods -- March 10 to April 10 and June 1 to June 10 -- avoiding May since vast migrations of "rice birds" passed through the state during that period and could destroy a crop. Rice was harvested in late August.

During the eighteenth century the profits to be gained from rice were extraordinary, ranging from a 12% to nearly 28% net return on the investment, well exceeding other cash crops, such as tobacco or indigo (see Coclanis 1989:141). Slavery in the Colleton area swelled, accounting for more than 82% of the area's population in 1790. Charleston was the mecca around which the economic, political, and social world of Carolina revolved. Charleston provided the essential opportunity for conspicuous consumption, a mechanism that allowed the display of wealth accumulated from the plantation system.

By the end of the eighteenth century, beginning of the nineteenth century, the rate of return on rice had been reduced, at best, to about 2%, and many years the rate of return was a staggering -3% to -7%. In 1859, just before the Civil War, the return is reported to have been -28%. As

Coclanis observes:

the economy of the South Carolina low country collapsed in the nineteenth century. Collapse did not come suddenly - many feel, for example, that the area's "golden age" lasted until about 1820 - but come it did nonetheless. By the late nineteenth century it was clear that the forces responsible for the area's earlier dynamism had been routed, the dark victory of economic stagnation virtually complete (Coclanis 1989:111).

Colleton County saw several military engagements during the American Revolution. Perhaps best known is the Battle of Parker's Ferry, where General Francis Marion and his force of about 400 men stopped the advance of superior British forces under the command of Lieutenant Colonel de Borock and forced his retreat back to Charleston (The Jaeger Company 1995:14). In early 1782, Jacksonboro served as the capital of South Carolina, hosting the General Assembly. It was during this term that South Carolina elected a new governor and approved the various Amercement and Confiscation Acts aimed against British loyalists.

After the American Revolution the economy of the Colleton area, like elsewhere in the state, was in ruins and there was a very slow recovery -- largely focused once again on rice cultivation and particularly the spread of tidal cultivation. The first census of St. Bartholomew in 1790 revealed a population of 12,606, with more than 82% of those enumerated being African American slaves. Of the 538 heads of households in 1790, 311 or 58%, owned at least one slave.

The town of Walterboro was founded in 1783 by Paul and Jacob Walter and was chosen as a haven for those family members stricken with malaria. Soon, several coastal plantation owners joined them in calling Walterboro, or what was

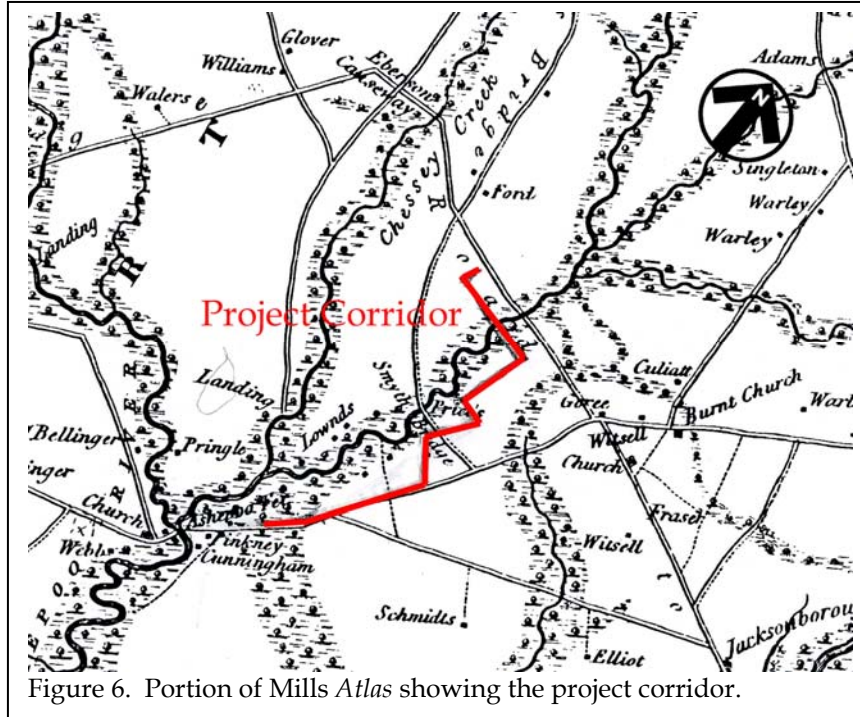


Figure 6. Portion of Mills Atlas showing the project corridor.

then known as simply the Ireland Creek settlement, as their summer home. By 1800, Walterboro had turned into a significant "pine-barren" resort, called so because of its wooded location and the timber fabricated cabins. It was named as the county seat of Colleton County in 1817, officially adopting the name Walterboro at this time. Not more than a decade later, the town had grown to a summer population of 900, with over 450 full-time residents. The town grew slowly but steadily through the antebellum years, catering to the same plantation owners that founded the town in the summer months. Several businesses and industries developed to support the growing community and their tourist traffic including churches, restaurants, general stores, and government buildings.

The antebellum saw continued expansion of rice and continued accumulation of wealth by many planters. In fact, by 1860 Colleton District ranked second among South Carolina's 30 districts in rice production with 22.8 million pounds being produced (The Jaeger Company 1995:20). Mills commented that the district's rice lands were very productive, "yielding on an average two barrels,

or 1400 pounds of rice to the acre" (Mills 1972 [1826]:505). Yet, with the decline in the return offered by rice, there was an accompanied slow-down in the rise of slavery for the region (The Jaeger Company 1995:20).

Mills' Atlas for Colleton (Figure 6) reveals few settlements near the project area. Two unnamed structures are found along Horseshoe Creek toward the middle of the corridor, however these structures appear to be outside of the corridor. No remains of these structures were encountered. Other names in the area include Pinkney and Cunningham.

Although rice was the dominant crop during the Antebellum, it was also a major producer of sweet potatoes (ranking fifth in 1840). Cotton production gradually increased from 1840 to 1860, as did both corn and rye production -- although these crops were almost exclusively found north of Walterboro, where the soils tend to be higher and somewhat drier (The Jaeger Company 1995:23).

Colleton County's location and river system gave it strategic importance throughout the Civil War. The events are briefly recounted by the architectural survey of the county (The Jaeger Company 1995:25-26) and include battles, the construction of various defenses, and the abandonment of plantation houses throughout the area. Perhaps the single greatest effect of the Civil War, however, was the loss of the labor white plantation owners had relied on to make their rice fields profitable. So after the war the county's economy -- like that throughout South Carolina -- was in tatters.

The 1870 census reports that 91% of

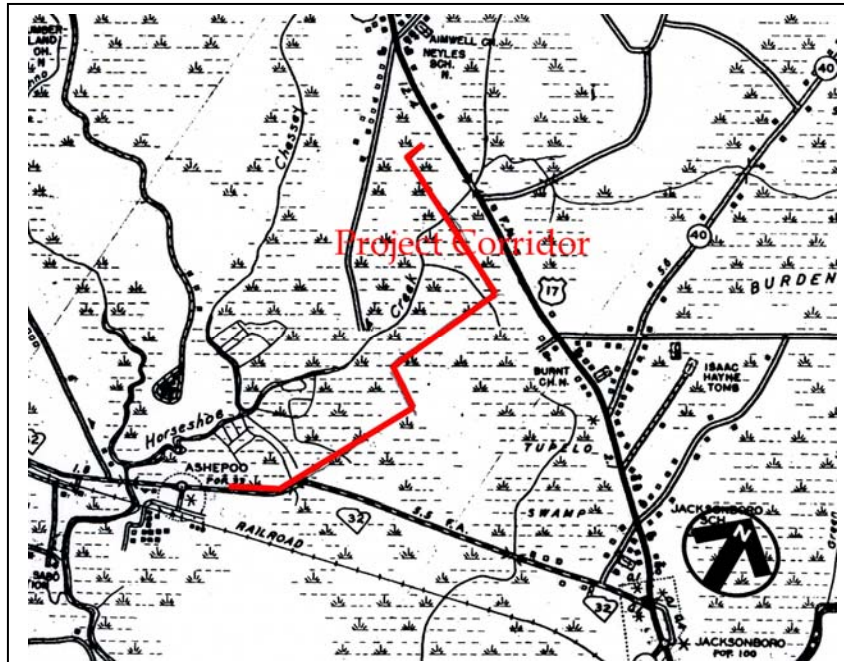


Figure 7. Portion of the 1941 General Highway and Transportation Map of Colleton County showing the project corridor.

Colleton County farms were under 100 acres in size, representing the breakup of many larger tracts and development of small farms, both owner-operated and tenant-operated.

The Jaeger Company (1995:28) points out that a total of 12,894.5 acres of Colleton County land was distributed by the South Carolina Land Commission -- the second highest total of all South Carolina counties.

Although an effort was made to restore rice production to pre-war levels, this effort was doomed. Not only was there resistance among black laborers, but a series of devastating storms hit the South Carolina coast in 1893, 1898, 1910, and 1911. Moreover, rice production was being mechanized in states like Texas and Louisiana, providing competition that South Carolina rice growers were unprepared to meet.

A variety of alternatives were sought, for example phosphate and timber, although each produced income for a relatively few years before collapsing. The population of Walterboro

increased dramatically during the Post-Reconstruction period. After the Civil War, Walterboro became a gathering place for deposed Ashepoo, Edisto and Combahee planters, growing from a population of 691 in 1880 to a booming business town and summer resort of 1,500 permanent residents in 1900. Its reputation as a peaceful, temperate vacation get-away was augmented by improved roadways and better rail accessibility. By the mid-1890s, Walterboro had the largest railway station on the line between Charleston and Savannah, bringing in rail tourists. Travelers on US Highway 17 and SC Route 30 also saw Walterboro as a convenient place to rest.

During the twentieth century, the county weathered both the depression years and the following boom in industrial growth. Throughout timber tended to be the one consistent and even today most of the county's lands are in timber. Much of the timbering in the area south of Walterboro was conducted by the Walterboro Lumber Company, with its mill located in Thayer. This company, which operated at least into the 1920s, seems to have focused on the area between the Ashepoo River and Chessey Creek (Fetters 1990:153-155). A portion of the Hampton and Branchville Railroad, which started in 1891, crosses through Smoaks and runs along part of the current project corridor (Fetters 1990:139-140).

Like many other areas in South Carolina, farming was hard hit by the Great Depression. The Jaeger Company (1995:35) notes that the number of Colleton farms dropped from 4,545 in 1910 to 2,944 by 1950, although this largely represents smaller farms being amalgamated (farm acreage dropped less, from 471,013 to 411,011 acres). During this same period, however, tenancy

was reduced by about 50%, with the number of tenants dropping from 1,251 to 665.

Figure 7 shows the *General Highway and Transportation Map of Colleton County* from 1941. No structures are found along the corridor. In fact, the entire project area is shown to be swamp.

RESEARCH METHODS AND FINDINGS

Archaeological Field Methods and Findings

The initially proposed field techniques for the substation lot involved the placement of shovel tests at the four corners of the property. The transmission corridor incorporated shovel testing along the center line of the corridor, which had a right-of-way of 75 feet.

All soil would be screened through ¼-inch mesh, with each test numbered sequentially. Each test would measure about 1 foot square and would normally be taken to a depth of at least 1.0 foot or until subsoil was encountered. All cultural remains would be collected, except for mortar and brick, which would be quantitatively noted in the field and discarded. Notes would be maintained for profiles at any sites encountered.

Should sites (defined by the presence of three or more artifacts from either surface survey or shovel tests within a 50 feet area) be identified, further tests would be used to obtain data on site boundaries, artifact quantity and diversity, site integrity, and temporal affiliation. These tests would be placed at 25 to 50 feet intervals in a simple cruciform pattern until two consecutive negative shovel tests were encountered. The information required for completion of South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology site forms would be collected and photographs would be taken, if warranted in the opinion of the field investigators.

A total of four shovel

tests were excavated within the substation lot. A total of 315 shovel tests were excavated along the corridor. The central portion of the corridor was subjected to a pedestrian survey since the majority was covered in water.

Analysis of collections would follow professionally accepted standards with a level of intensity suitable to the quantity and quality of the remains.

Nevertheless, the archaeological survey of the substation lot and transmission corridor failed to identify any remains. This is most likely due to the large amount of poorly drained soils and the lack of high land, suitable for habitation.

Architectural Survey

As previously discussed, we elected to use a 0.5 mile area of potential effect (APE). The architectural survey would record buildings, sites, structures, and objects that appeared to have been



Figure 8. Transmission line adjacent to the current project corridor.



Figure 9. Shovel testing in the project corridor.

constructed before 1950. Typical of such projects, this survey recorded only those which have retained "some measure of its historic integrity" (Vivian n.d.:5) and which were visible from public roads.

For each identified resource we would complete a Statewide Survey Site Form and at least two representative photographs were taken. Permanent control numbers would be assigned by the Survey Staff of the S.C. Department of Archives and History at the conclusion of the study. The Site Forms for the resources identified during this study would be submitted to the S.C. Department of Archives and History.

Site Evaluation and Findings

Archaeological sites would be evaluated for further work based on the eligibility criteria for the National Register of Historic Places. Chicora Foundation only provides an opinion of National Register eligibility and the final determination is made by the lead federal agency, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

The criteria for eligibility to the National

Register of Historic Places is described by 36CFR60.4, which states:

the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of

location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and

a. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

b. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

c. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

d. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

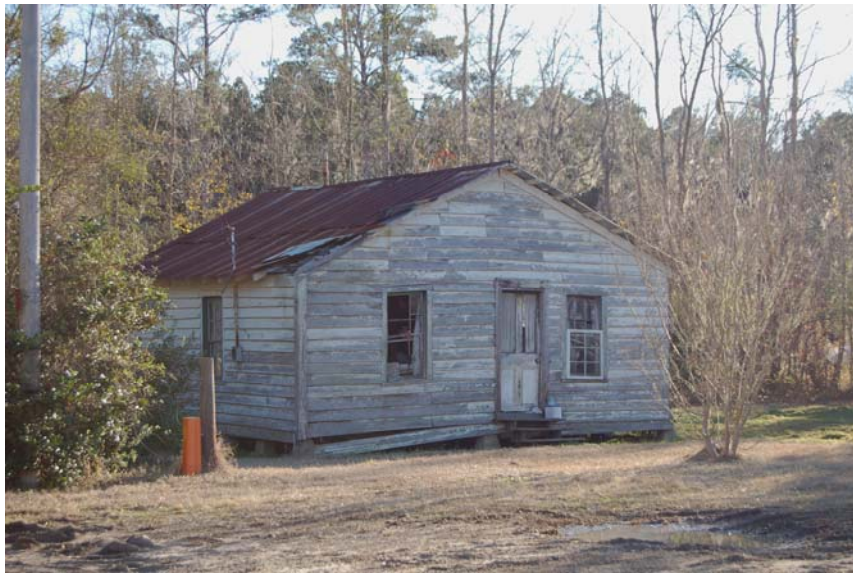


Figure 10. View of 356-0339.

National Register Bulletin 36 (Townsend et al. 1993) provides an evaluative process that contains five steps for forming a clearly defined explicit rationale for either the site's eligibility or lack of eligibility. Briefly, these steps are:

- identification of the site's data sets or categories of archaeological information such as ceramics, lithics, subsistence remains, architectural remains, or sub-surface features;
- identification of the historic context applicable to the site, providing a framework for the evaluative process;
- identification of the important research questions the site might be able to address, given the data sets and the context;

- evaluation of the site's archaeological integrity to ensure that the data sets were sufficiently well preserved to address the research questions; and

- identification of important research questions among all of those which might be asked and answered at the site.

This approach, of course, has been developed for use documenting eligibility of sites being actually nominated to the National Register of Historic Places where the evaluative process must stand alone, with relatively little reference to other documentation and where typically only one site is being considered. As a result, some aspects of the evaluative process have been summarized, but we have tried to focus on an archaeological site's ability to address significant research topics within



Figure 11. View of 206-0551, the Ashpoo Train Trestle.



Figure 12. Site 38CN1071 – the Ashepoo Town Hall/Post Office.

the context of its available data sets.

The two previously identified resources were revisited and rephotographed. Site 356-0339, a c. 1935 house (Figure 10), is still recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Ashepoo Train Trestle, 206-0551 (Figure 11), which is eligible for the National

Register, cannot be seen from the current project corridor, so will not be affected by the undertaking.

We attempted to locate and photograph two structures that were recorded as S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology sites (38CN1071 -- the Ashepoo Town Hall/Post Office and 38CN1072 -- the Ashepoo Depot) (Lowcountry Council of Governments 1979). The site forms show that Brockington and Associates recorded

updated forms in 2005 recommending 38CN1071 as not eligible and no eligibility recommendations for 38CN1072. However, the current survey failed to locate any structures in the given positions as shown by the maps in the search room. The Ashepoo Town Hall/Post Office (38CN1071) (Figure 12) was located in a different area; its

actual location is shown on a modern topographic map (Figure 13). It is unclear if the structure was mislocated or moved from its original position, however there has been extensive alterations even from the view in 1979 (Lowcountry Council of Governments 1979: 115). These alterations include the addition of a new roof and a new porch. We still recommend this resource not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

It should also be mentioned that about 1,000 feet of the proposed corridor runs through historic rice fields (along Highway 17 toward the southern portion of

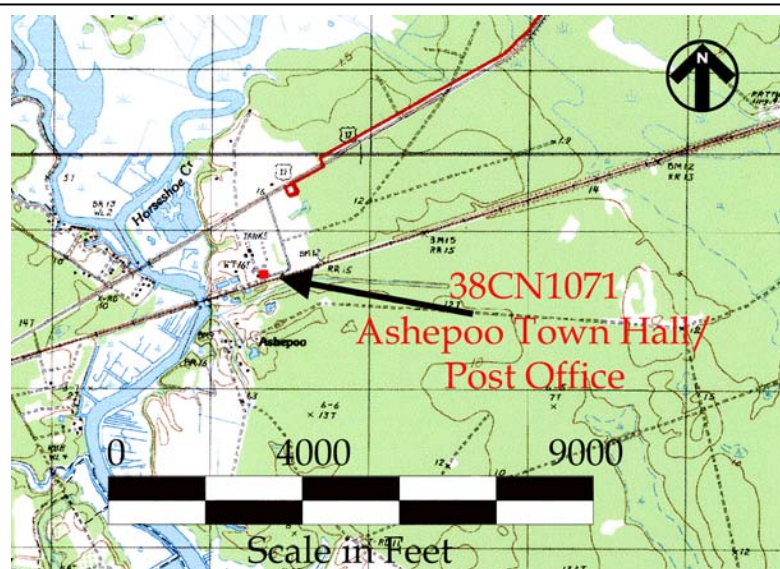


Figure 13. Topographic map showing the location of 38CN1071 – the Ashepoo Town Hall/Post Office.

the project). This area is just a small sample of rice fields found throughout this portion of the Ashepoo River (Figure 14). A larger, undisturbed area of fields can be found to the northwest, which also provides better visual integrity. The section of rice fields being affected by the current project has already been visually impacted by US 17. this highway has also had a significant audible intrusion on the ricefields (36CFR800.5(a)(2); see also Gunderlach 2007). The current project will not affect the intact portion of rice fields to the northwest and the small section of rice fields in the



Figure 14. View of rice fields along the project corridor.

project area are already visually affected by trash and Highway 17.

CONCLUSIONS

This study involved the examination of a 7.5 mile corridor for a transmission line and lot for a substation in Colleton County. This work, conducted for Mr. Tommy L. Jackson of Central Electric Power Cooperative examined archaeological sites and cultural resources found on the proposed project area and is intended to assist this company in complying with their historic preservation responsibilities.

As a result of this investigation, no archaeological sites were found in the survey area. This is likely the result of the poorly drained soils and lack of high, habitable ground.

A survey of public roads within 0.5 mile revealed no structures that retain the integrity for the National Register of Historic Places beyond the one resource, 206-0551 – the Ashepoo Train Trestle, which was recorded and determined

eligible for the National Register (Jaeger Company 1995). This resource, however, cannot be seen from the survey corridor and will not be affected by the current undertaking.

It is possible that archaeological remains may be encountered during construction activities. As always, contractors should be advised to report any discoveries of concentrations of artifacts (such as bottles, ceramics, or projectile points) or brick rubble to the project engineer, who should in turn report the material to the State Historic Preservation Office, or Chicora Foundation (the process of dealing with late discoveries is discussed in 36CFR800.13(b)(3)). No further land altering activities should take place in the vicinity of these discoveries until they have been examined by an archaeologist and, if necessary, have been processed according to 36CFR800.13(b)(3).

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**Archaeological
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Chicora Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 8664 • 861 Arbutus Drive
Columbia, SC 29202-8664
Tel: 803-787-6910
Fax: 803-787-6910
Email: Chicora@earthlink.net
www.chicora.org